

Torrance, California
November 14, 1944

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 14, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger, acting for Clerk Bartlett, absent, called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen; None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Cucci moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held October 24, 1944 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held October 30, 1944 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

An Affidavit of the City Clerk of the City of Torrance was read, in which it was stated that, on November 3, 1944, the City Clerk had received a Supplemental Referendum Petition containing a list of registered voters of the City of Torrance; that the City Clerk had, on November 10, 1944, checked the names with the records in the office of the Registrar of Voters in Los Angeles and found that said Supplemental Referendum Petition contains eighty-two (82) signatures of qualified electors of the City of Torrance, this number of signatures, added to the number contained in Referendum Petition received by the City Clerk on October 19, 1944 constituting more than 10% of the qualified electors of the City of Torrance.

In reply to Councilman Cucci's question, directed to the City Attorney, as to what action is necessary in connection with this matter, Mr. McCall advised that no action is necessary.

A communication was read from the Waleria War Memorial (World War II), signed by George P. Thatcher, Chairman, extending an invitation to the City Council and all employees of the City to attend the dedication of a memorial commemorating the services being rendered by the men and women from Waleria who are in the Armed Forces, the dedication ceremony to be held November 26, 1944, 2:00 P.M., at the Waleria Library.

A communication was read from the Waleria Civic Organization, signed by Paul Slonecker, Secretary, requesting an appropriation of \$75.00 to help defray expenses of the Christmas party to be held for the children of Waleria.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Waleria Civic Organization, signed by Paul Slonecker, Secretary, protesting the proposed sale of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines to private parties and expressed opposition to the "acquirement of public utilities by mercenary individuals or corporations."

A communication was read from the Waleria Community Service Council, signed by Ardis B. Stagner, President, petitioning the City Council to authorize the making of a survey of the district served by the Quandt Pumping Company, and an appraisal of the assets of the Quandt Pumping Company.

Councilman Cucci expressed the thought that there appears to be too little interest in this matter to warrant the expenditure by the City of \$600.00 (this being the lowest bid received for the survey) and added that, inasmuch as the City does not intend to purchase the system, it does not seem reasonable to spend money for a survey.

Mr. Stagner addressed the Council and stated that the interest in the matter will be evidenced by signatures on petitions when they are circulated, but that, in order to intelligently approach prospective signers, it will be necessary to furnish certain data, such as value of the system, a figure likely to be acceptable to Mr. Quandt, etc.

Councilman Cucci said he understood there is some opposition on the part of Waleria citizens to purchasing the system, as some of them feel that the lines have deteriorated too much to be worth the figure Mr. Quandt expects. He suggested that Mr. Quandt should be the one to furnish figures as to what the system consists of and its value.

After some further discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that, inasmuch as funds have not been budgeted to allow this expenditure this year, the matter be deferred for further study and consideration. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger reported receipt of \$4,413.47 from the Division of Highways, being $\frac{1}{2}$ gas tax funds. Matter of record.

A communication, addressed to the City Council and the Editor of the Torrance Herald, bearing the typed signatures of 12 residents of the City, was read relative to the bus situation and referring to a recent one-page report in the Torrance Herald of the financial condition of the Bus Lines.

The management for the past six months was questioned and the following direct inferences were made in the form of questions: (1) Six new Crown Coach busses with inferior motor power were ordered and no mention of a delivery date stipulated in the order; (2) The City Mechanic Foreman was ordered not to make any major repairs on the busses but keep them limping along as best he could; (3) The recommendations of the Safety Engineer for increased efficiency and safety were disregarded.

It was further inferred, in question form, that the above methods had been employed to demoralize and disgust the public with municipal operation in order that an outside interest could then offer the City a low price for the bus system.

It was stated that municipal transportation is desirable even though the City does lose money by operating its own transportation line.

A communication was read from Ruth A. Willson and Staff, thanking the Council for appropriating funds for improving the Torrance, Lomita Child Care Center and also expressing appreciation for assistance given by Mr. Riley and Mr. Cook during progress of the work.

A communication was read from Joshua Hendy Iron Works, expressing appreciation for the prompt attention a recent request made by said company received, the request being to re-line Lomita Boulevard from Narbonne Avenue to Hawthorne Boulevard. It was requested that, in compliance with recommendations of their Safety Engineer, a white cross be placed on the highway fifty feet on either side of the entrance to their plant to aid employees in locating the entrance when driving during heavy fogs.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication and request be referred to the City Engineer for action and report. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Stella Freligh, urging the sale of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

A communication was read from the Gardena Municipal Bus Line, signed by James L. Rush, Mayor, advising that the City of Gardena is withholding permission for the Torrance Municipal Bus Line to operate through Gardena until such time that assurance is given that the Torrance Line will not be sold to a private party or concern. It was stated that the objective of better service for the two communities cannot be gained if the Torrance Line is operated by a private party or concern.

A communication was read from Groff's United Shows, requesting an extension of one day to include Sunday, November 19, 1944 on the special permit granted recently for a show in Torrance, due to weather conditions which made it impossible to open on November 13, 1944, permit having been granted to operate from November 13 to November 18, 1944.

After determining that no ordinances are in effect prohibiting shows on Sundays, Mayor Tolson having asked the question, Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Walter F. Hansen, Director of Recreation, City of Santa Ana, acknowledging receipt of City Clerk Bartlett's letter of October 27, 1944, and advising that he will communicate with George Thatcher immediately concerning preliminary arrangements for a meeting with the Recreation Commission of the City of Torrance at an early date.

Councilman Gilbert announced that, since receipt of the above letter, Mr. Hansen had contacted Mr. Thatcher and advised that it will be impossible for him to conduct the survey, as the City of Santa Ana has indicated that their own program will not leave him sufficient time to devote to it. Councilman Gilbert said some other contact is being contemplated.

A communication was read from Abel Davila, requesting permission for himself and family to live in a tent or temporary shack on 14 acres of land owned by him and located in the City of Torrance during the time he is building a permanent structure on the land.

A short discussion followed relative to jurisdiction, Councilman Cucci expressing the belief that it is a Planning Commission matter and Engineer Jain stating that, in his opinion, it is a Building Code matter.

It was pointed out that no mention was made in the letter of the probable length of time the parties expect to live in the tent or temporary structure.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Davila be asked for additional information in connection with his request for a permit to live in a tent or other temporary quarters, giving the date of beginning and probable date of ending of the temporary occupancy of such quarters, and also giving location of the 14 acres of land owned by him upon which land he expects to live. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce relative to the property located in Hollywood Riviera, donated to the City for park purposes, with the recommendation that it be used for a Boy Scout Camp, and requesting prompt action to accept or reject the offer.

A note was attached advising that Mr. Bartlett had contacted the Associated Assessment Engineers and had been advised that, so long as the property is used for park purposes, all delinquent taxes and special assessments against the property will be forgiven.

Councilman Gilbert stated that a question has arisen regarding rights of adjacent property owners, advising that he is under the

impression that when the property owners purchased their land, their deeds gave them the privilege of using the property in question at any time for park purposes. He suggested that a further investigation be made of this matter before taking definite action.

Councilman Cucci moved that a representative of the Associated Assessment Engineers meet with the Council and explain the status of the property in question and particularly its relativity to property adjacent to it. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be instructed to notify the Chamber of Commerce by letter that the City is decidedly interested in the property in the Hollywood Riviera District, offered to the City for a Boy Scout Camp, and intends to take action immediately all the details are learned which will probably be at the next meeting of the Council. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Municipal Bus Lines, attaching correspondence from the B. F. Goodrich Company asking that the proper authorities sign the agreement for tire rental on the new equipment expected by the City.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Mayor be authorized to enter into the Agreement with the B. F. Goodrich Company for tire rental for the new bus equipment which the City anticipates receiving. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, requesting authority for expenditure of not to exceed \$1000.00 for repair of the 48" corrugated metal pipe culvert at Torrance Boulevard and Western Avenue, recently severely damaged by the flow of acid from the Columbia Steel Company's galvanizing tanks, due to a break in their pipe line. Unless it is repaired immediately, he said, it will necessitate a new culvert at a much greater cost. He advised further that he had notified the Columbia Steel Company of the damage and also notified the Pacific Electric Railway Company, who own the middle 50 feet of the culvert, the City owning 100 feet, and the Pacific Electric Company had authorized him to have their portion of the culvert repaired at the same time as the City culvert is repaired and bill the Columbia Steel Company for the damage.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$1000.00 be made for repairing damaged culvert at Torrance Boulevard and Western Avenue, Columbia Steel Company to reimburse the City for the repairs. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the State of California, Division of Highways, advising that the Highway Commission, at its meeting in Sacramento on October 19, 1944, allocated funds to finance the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Redondo-Wilmington Boulevard and Hawthorne Avenue in Waleria. It was advised that construction will begin as soon as the Department secures authority from the War Production Board.

A communication was read from the League of California Cities, addressed to Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, urging the City Engineer's attendance at a meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee to be held in Sacramento at the Hotel Senator November 29, 1944.

Engineer Jain stated that if he could spare the time, he would attend the meeting; that the City of Torrance was not represented at the meeting last year and the fact had been called to his attention.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to attend the meeting if he can arrange his schedule to include it, with expenses paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Powell, Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from The National Supply Company, requesting a permit to install a storm sewer starting at a point opposite the entrance to their Plancor Building on 213th Street, running East along a parkway on the South side of 213th Street to Western Avenue, and thence North on Western Avenue to the slough, the line to cross 213th Street at Western Avenue.

Engineer Jain gave a brief outline of what the work will consist of and stated that it is for the purpose of draining storm water.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, attaching final estimate on the Crenshaw Boulevard improvement, showing final pay quantities, extra work, and services furnished to contractor by the City.

Engineer Jain recommended that the sum of \$4,223.95 be paid to the Olympic Contracting Company as final payment on the above named job.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$4,223.95 be made for payment to the Olympic Contracting Company as recommended by Engineer Jain. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, attaching First Monthly Estimate of work performed by Tomei Construction Company on the Torrance Boulevard improvement project and recommending payment of \$7,168.50 as payment on this estimate to and including November 6, 1944.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$7,168.50 be made for payment to the Tomei Construction Company as recommended by Engineer Jain. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1697

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COVERING CERTAIN TAX-DEEDED PROPERTIES IN SAID CITY OF TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1697 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1698

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ACCEPTING QUITCLAIM DEED FROM JEAN SMITH TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE SAID CITY: AUTHORIZING THE CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE A WARRANT IN PAYMENT THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD THE SAID QUITCLAIM DEED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1698 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, Powell, Gilbert and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Deputy Clerk Hallanger presented and read in full (upon request of Councilman Cucci):

RESOLUTION NO. 1699

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA ORDERING THE
CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN ASSESSMENTS.

A short discussion ensued regarding legal description of the property involved, after which Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1699 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Paul F. Koehl, Secretary of Hollywood Riviera Community Association, enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association, conveying to the City Lot 50, Block "P", Tract 10300, Lot 1, Block "M", Tract 10302 and Lot 1, Block "G", Tract 10304, to be used exclusively for park purposes.

This being the property referred to earlier in the meeting as a Boy Scout Camp, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be held until further investigation can be made of the matter. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Girl Scouts, Los Angeles Council, thanking the Park Authorities for splendid cooperation they received during the summer. It was requested that four additional latrines be installed in order to meet the minimum standards of the National Organization of Girl Scouts.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the Recreation Commission for report. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$53.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of one (1) Federal Type 66 siren for the City ambulance, as recommended by Chief McMaster. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell stated that he had discussed the matter of inadequate lighting of the intersection of Carson Street and Arlington Avenue with Engineer Jain, who advised him that the light standards on two corners were not wired for use. Councilman Powell explained that the inadequate lighting makes it extremely difficult to see the boulevard stop signs on Carson Street where Carson Street enters Arlington from the east and west. He said Engineer Jain had suggested that blinker signal stop signs be installed to remedy the condition.

Engineer Jain advised that the blinker signals cost \$65.00 each. Councilman Powell moved that the City Engineer be instructed to make whatever changes are necessary and proceed to install blinker stop signs on Carson Street as follows: one on the North East corner and one on the South West corner where Carson Street enters Arlington Avenue. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a communication from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, regarding the trailer situation, in which Chief Stroh reported that he had investigated and found that Ordinance No. 298, the trailer and camp car ordinance, does not specifically prescribe a basis upon which to arrest or cite into court persons allegedly violating the ordinance. He named four court persons, some of them with families, who are living in trailers or tents, and advised that he had notified them to conform with Ordinance No. 298 by November 15, 1944.

A short discussion ensued regarding jurisdiction, it being the opinion of the Council that this is a Planning Commission matter, but that, persons not being aware that the proper procedure is to apply for a variance permit through the Planning Commission, have made their appeals directly to the City Council.

Councilman Powell moved that the Planning Commission be notified that the City Council desires to meet with the Commission on December 4, 1944, with Chief Stroh and City Attorney McCall in attendance for thorough discussion of the trailer situation. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$75.00 be made for purchase of meter repair parts for the Municipal Water District No. 1. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$270.96 be made for 24 5/8" x 3/4" Water Meters, without connections, for Municipal Water District No. 1. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$165.82 be made for purchase of 100 #3 Meter Boxes for Municipal Water District No. 1. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

On behalf of the Columbia Steel Company, Councilman Cucci requested the use of 300 folding chairs and enough bunting to decorate the speakers' platform for a ceremony to be held November 18, 1944 for presentation of the Maritime M to the Company. Councilman Cucci changed his request to a motion when Council members signified their desire to grant the request, which motion Councilman Hitchcock seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Electrician be authorized to place electric light globes in the fixtures on Torrance Boulevard to Hickory Street, there having been a number of complaints about the lighting in that vicinity. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$235.00 be made for rental of a Clamshell for cleaning out and excavating flood channel at Torrance Boulevard and Western Avenue. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$292.66 be made for rental of a tandem roller from October 1 to November 2, 1944 inclusive. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell commented that the City has spent a great deal of money for rental of a roller and asked Engineer Jain about the possibility of locating one for sale, to which Engineer Jain replied that a vain search has been made and that the City's second request for a priority to purchase a new roller had been denied.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$50.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of 1,000 ten-ride commutation books from the Dillingham Printing Company. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$350.00 be made for purchase of two (2) Ford motors for Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$300.00 be made for purchase of one (1) Ford Transmission for Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$125.00 be made for purchase of two Johnson fare boxes for Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$64.06 be made for 200 bulletins issued by the Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported that he had not as yet received a reply to a communication he directed to Clifford F. Reid regarding his request that a certain alley be vacated.

Engineer Jain advised that the repair work to the alley between Andreo Avenue and Gramercy Avenue as requested by the property owners is scheduled and will be done as soon as possible.

Engineer Jain reported that Department Heads concerned had been notified regarding the recommendations made by the State Compensation Insurance Fund that certain improvements be made and that he was under the impression that most of the suggested improvements had been completed.

Engineer Jain stated that he is keeping in touch with Mr. Barnett, who is making the survey of the 203rd Street sewer project, and will report his progress to the Council from time to time.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Lillian Silvers, 1605 Hickory Street, requested a zoning variance from the single family residence restriction to allow Mr. and Mrs. Silvers to reside in a garage at 1508 Iris Street on property of Mrs. Mischler. She advised that it is intended that the garage shall have an extra room added to it and made fit for habitation, it already being equipped with lights, gas and water.

After some discussion, the procedure for applying for a zoning variance through the regular channels was explained to Mrs. Silvers and she was instructed to call personally at the office of the City Engineer for the necessary forms.

Engineer Jain further advised Mrs. Silvers to obtain the names of the legal owners of all property within 300 feet of the property in question, as their signatures are required before the application can be considered.

Paul Slonecker of Walteria asked whether the purchases made for the Bus Lines had been made with the objective of having Mr. Ward continue to manage the line, or whether the purchases were made to increase the assets of the line for the benefit of Mr. Koors in the event the City Council decides to sell to him.

Mr. A. L. Elder addressed the Council, protesting the sale of the Bus Lines. He said he would concede that problems would be encountered, and expenses incurred in running a transportation line, but that the private party who might own the system would be faced with the same difficulties and may be inclined to raise fares or curtail service if the anticipated profit could not be made otherwise, whereas, he said, a municipality does not necessarily have to show a profit on operations, as the City operates the transportation system as a service to the public the same as other departments are operated as a public service.

At this point, a general discussion of the proposed sale of the Bus Lines began, participated in by the Council and members of the assemblage, with Mr. Charles Koors, bidder for the Bus Lines, answering questions and presenting his opinions as to why a privately owned transportation line could and would operate the line to better serve the people than does a municipality.

Regarding Mr. Elder's assertion that private ownership might result in increased fares and curtailed service, Mayor Tolson pointed out that rates are controlled by the Railroad Commission and that changes could not be made unless a public hearing were held for the purpose of hearing opinions of interested groups. He reported that at a recent meeting with Logan R. Cotton, City Auditor, Mr. Cotton had appraised the line at \$19,000.00 and had advised that the City could probably expect to operate the line at a loss of approximately three to six thousand dollars per annum.

Mr. Charles Koors then addressed the Council and Assemblage and asked for the privilege of disproving the assertions made in the letter read earlier in the meeting addressed to the City Council and the Editor of the Torrance Herald. He stated that, in connection with one accusation that he gave orders to the mechanic to withhold major repairs on the busses and keep them "limping along" with the thought in mind to create dissatisfaction with the Bus Lines, Mr. Herman Pickett, Chief Mechanic, could offer some enlightenment on the subject.

Mr. Herman Pickett stated that Mr. Koors had always given him instructions to keep the busses in the best possible mechanical condition.

The assertion that his aim had been to make the people so dissatisfied with the Bus Lines that he could then purchase the system with no difficulty Mr. Koors branded as ridiculous. He said when he first became associated with the Torrance Bus Lines, much dissatisfaction on the part of the people and industry had been apparent, which he had endeavored to lessen by putting into use all available equipment, some of which, for one reason or another, had not been utilized.

The assertion that he had had a long range view of a period of upheaval and ultimate purchase of the line was an absurd intimation, but that he had had a long range plan in mind to assist in giving the people of the community an attractive, dependable transportation service, but which plan had nothing to do with purchase of the line.

He pointed out that municipal operations of transportation lines is in the minority, as it has been determined that private ownership will go to greater lengths to offer attractive service, as private ownership must necessarily make a profit, whereas a municipality is not in the position of having to make a profit and offers only the minimum service.

He commented that the best way to insure the growth and development of the City of Torrance is to have a modern, dependable transportation system which he and his associates are prepared to offer in the event the line is sold to them. He added that only by continuing to offer the best service possible could he and his associates investment be made secure, which would give them their required profit and at the same time give the people the kind of service they want.

Mr. Koors then went into a lengthy discourse on the methods employed by the Railroad Commission in controlling public utilities, the transportation system being classed as a public utility, and endeavored to dispell the fears that a privately owned transportation system would or could, without warning and without due regard for its patrons, institute drastic changes in rates and service.

Mr. Elder reflected that there was a time when the Pacific Electric Railway Company charged 70¢ for a round trip fare to Los Angeles. Mr. Koors explained that a comparison cannot be made between a bus line and a track system of transportation, as, he said, the track is no respecter of shifting populations, whereas busses can be re-routed, with the approval of the Railroad Commission, to follow populations, making it possible to offer the lower rates due to a greater volume of business.

Mr. Koors referred to the letter from Mr. Rush of the Gardena Bus Lines, and said he had not as yet had the opportunity of discussing the matter with Mr. Rush, but felt sure he could dispel any fears Mr. Rush may have in connection with the matter.

Insofar as the reference made by Mr. Slonecker, the purchases made at this meeting for the bus lines, Mr. Koors said that anything added to the bus lines after his bid was submitted will be added to the amount of the bid.

Mr. Charles Elman of Los Angeles addressed the Council briefly, protesting sale of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

Mr. James Judge advised that he had not been in the meeting when it started and asked whether or not Supplemental Referendum Petition had been read, Mayor Tolson answering in the affirmative (referring to the Affidavit of the City Clerk read upon opening of Written Communications).

Mr. Judge asked if any action had been taken, Mayor Tolson's reply being that there had been no action taken.

Mr. James O'Toole asked why action had not been taken, claiming action is necessary. Mayor Tolson advised him that the City Council employs Mr. McCall to render legal advice, and that it had been his opinion that no action is necessary.

Attorney McCall stated that he thought Mr. O'Toole had in mind that the City Council could rescind Ordinance No. 360, but that he (Mr. McCall) had assumed, when he advised that no action was necessary, that the Council did not desire to rescind the ordinance.

Councilman Cucci asked Mr. McCall whether the ordinance is in full force and effect and Mr. McCall replied that, in his opinion, it is.

Mr. O'Toole demanded to know what the Council intends to do, or he said, "if it comes to a case of law, are you going to plead that you didn't know what to do?"

Councilman Cucci advised that the City Council will be guided by the advice of the City Attorney, and that Mr. O'Toole is entitled to take whatever steps he may feel inclined to take.

Mr. O'Toole asked what the City Attorney's advice had been and when Mayor Tolson answered that Mr. McCall had advised the Council that no action is necessary, Mr. O'Toole asked "on what grounds?"

Mr. McCall replied, "on the grounds that if they want to rescind the ordinance, there is something for them to do, but if they do not want to rescind the ordinance, I know of no action they can take." Mr. O'Toole then said "your advice to them is that they have no action to take, is that it?" Mr. McCall replied, "I said there is no action necessary for them to take. They could take action if they wanted to, but they don't want to."

Then Mr. O'Toole announced, apparently addressing the Council, "If it comes to a case in court, remember that you didn't want to take any action."

Councilman Cucci brought attention back to the bus situation and read portions of a report of the auditor of the financial condition of the Bus Lines. He and Mr. Koors conversed at length relative to business methods, profit percentages and other related subjects of general interest.

Councilman Cucci asked Mr. Koors to explain how he would go about obtaining his franchise from the Railroad Commission, stating that he understood that Mr. Koors's offer is contingent upon the Council giving its approval and assistance in the matter of getting the franchise. Mr. Koors gave a brief summary of the facts which would be included in his application for a franchise and stated that the procedure for the Council, in assisting him to obtain same, would be to adopt a resolution signifying willingness to have a privately owned transportation system operate the line. This had been taken into consideration, he said, when the amount of the bid was figured.

Councilman Cucci stated that the "good will" of the bus line is worth something over and above the actual value of the assets. Mr. Koors stated that he felt his offer of \$20,000.00 sufficient to cover the full value of the line.

A question regarding delivery of the 6 new busses arose at which time Mr. Koors stated that one will be delivered before the week is over, another the following week, and a total of four will be delivered this month.

Councilman Cucci made several more comments in connection with the delivery of busses, then, with the statement that plans for extending the service and working out a plan with the Gardena Bus Lines depend on action taken at this time, moved that the bid submitted by Charles F. Koors, and all other bids, for purchase of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, be rejected and the Bus Lines continue normal operations under the present ownership with no further hindrances. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion.

Councilman Powell stated that he felt it to be to the best interests of all concerned to maintain the bus lines especially, he said, as a means of developing the outlying areas. Much development could be encouraged, he said, if transportation is available in the rural districts, and the increased business and revenue from the improvements and added population would more than offset the cost of furnishing the transportation to those points.

Mayor Tolson remarked that, with the new busses about to be delivered, involving more expense, he saw no promise of the City ever operating the busses at anything except a loss, but, he said, he would cooperate in every way possible no matter what the decision is. He said, in view of the above, he favored turning the busses over to private enterprise.

Councilman Hitchcock expressed no opinion at this time regarding selling or keeping the busses, but commented that the City Auditor had said that, if the City could stand to operate the bus lines at a loss of five or six thousand dollars per year over a period of the next five or ten years, the decision would be to keep the busses.

Councilman Cucci questioned the statement, claiming that he (the Auditor) had set the loss nearer two thousand dollars per year.

A roll call vote was taken on Councilman Cucci's motion to reject the bid of Charles F. Koors, and all other bids, for purchase of the Bus Lines, the vote being as follows: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock and Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci addressed the Mayor, stating that he felt both Mayor Tolson and Councilman Hitchcock would be prejudiced in handling transportation matters, due to the fact that they voted against retaining the Bus Lines, and asked, therefore, that Mayor Tolson rearrange the committees at the next meeting to allow those Councilmen who are interested in the Bus Lines to function as the Transportation Committee.

Mayor Tolson pointed out to Councilman Cucci that, simply because opinions differed did not by any means indicate that he would not cooperate with the Bus Lines. He said he had always taken an interest in the Line and assisted in whatever way he could, although he had not been consulted for the past several months regarding

